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THE '?'

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

Tardis Tours

A Dr. Who Fan Club

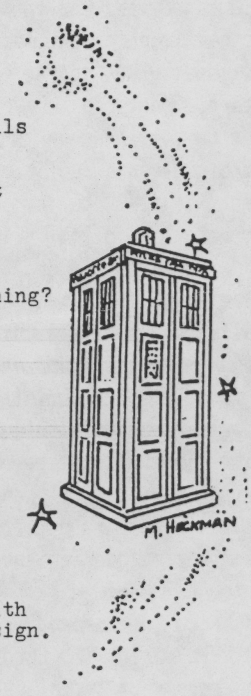
P.O. Box 1064
Bethlehem, PA
18016

Vol.1 Issue 2 MAY 1986

Your next Doctors' Appointment... WHO 'n HALLEY ?

MAY 10, 1986 2 P.M. to Midnight

OBSERVATORY OF THE NEW JERSEY ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION AND VOORHEES STATE PARK



Enjoy a very unique and fun-filled day (and night) at Voorhees State Park with nature trails a picnic area, and of course... the observatory. There will be Dr. Who videos and if we can gather the equipment (HINT!) a game of cricket!

In the evening, become a real traveler in space, exploring the Cosmos and hopefully a last fleeting glimpse of Halley's Comet.

Bring a lunch, or buy it at the Observatory.

A special invitation goes out to all members of clubs in the Northeast Matrix to set up membership and merchandise tables at the event.

So, all you fans of Who and space, make it an all day happening! Tired of the same old thing? Well, here's a timely change of pace, and its all for FREE! (Any donations to the observatory are welcome!)

Please, NO ALCOHOLIC BEBERAGES!

Schedule of Events:

2:00 - 2:15	Welcome by Ben Cavotta, Pres. of the N.J. Astronomical Society
2:15 - 3:30	Observatory Tours
3:30 - 5:00	Dr. Who video on a 50" projection T.V. and cricket match
5:00 - 7:00	Eat and enjoy the Park
7:00 - 8:30	Videos
8:30 -	Star Party with introduction by Ben

Directions: Rt. 78 to Rt. 31 NORTH - Washington. At traffic light on Rt. 31N (approx. 1 to 1 1/2 miles) make a right and follow signs for Rt. 513 and Voorhees State Park and High Bridge. (watch for the turns in town) After leaving High Bridge, look for sign - "NJAA Observatory" with arrow pointing to the left. 500 feet past the sign, turn left just beyong 45 mph speed limit sign. If you reach the High School and entrance to the Park, you've gone too far, ...turn around and try again!

WHO BITS_____ by Ron Heckman, Editor

The April 12th meeting featured videos, prizes, and club business. We held a drawing and the winners were: Jamie Goodreau, Devra Parks, Jerry Schrettner and Andrew Shults. Other business included the announcement of Westgate Mall in Bethlehem as the site for the Monarch Tour's Dr. Who Exhibit this summer. A special welcome to the newest member of Tardis Tours...Jon Pertwee, who was seen sporting a new cape made by club member Margaret Heckman at ICON V in Long Island. Other topics discussed were... club shirts and stationary, both of which will be available soon. The winners of Anthony Martucci's Trivia Challenge from the last newsletter were Andrew Shults and Devra Parks. Finally, thanks to all our members who donated during our "pass the hat" segment and a Special Thanks to Jerome Schrettner whose generous donation deserves special mention!

See you on May 10th for "Who 'n Halley" with our next meeting later this summer...

A reminder to all members of Tardis Tours that this is your newsletter, so if you have any ideas or submissions, send them on in(in care of 'Editor' at our P.O. Box)...

Once again, a call to all potential volunteers... the club NEEDS YOU! It will take all of us to make T.T. something special!

JEFF LAKE....?

It's over...we have a winner, the newsletter has a name and it is "?".

Now, before you cock your head and say, "Huh?", let me explain. When the original "?" was placed on the first newsletter, it was a bleary-eyed way to fill a space at the last minute. However, it appears as these things sometimes do, it must have been collective telepathy, fate, or my midnight pizza, for JEFF LAKE of Easton wrote suggesting the "?" name stay. To quote Jeff, "...it is the Dr.'s favorite punctuation mark and it's definitely original." Since the contest began, members have said they liked the idea and Jeff put it into writing first...so to the winner go the spoils. Jeff will recieve an original pen and ink sketch of Tom Baker by artist Margaret Heckman as well as a free membership to Tardis Tours in 1987.

Oh, and by the way, Mr. JEFF LAKE...you have now been immortalized! A very special thanks from Tardis Tours to Jeff!

Ron Heckman

Ron Heckman, Editor

WHO is the Doctor?

By Stephen J. Labert

Who can appear simultaneously in 54 countries and be observed by more than 100 million earthlings? Who zips around in a TARDIS (Time And Relative Dimensions In Space), a spaceship that resembles a British police call box? Who has two hearts, 13 lives, and 6 faces? Who indeed.

Since 1963, the British Broadcasting Company's "Dr. Who" series has been shown on British television and is now shown in over 100 U.S. markets.

So what sort of fellow is the Doctor? Grumpy? Kindly? Young? Old? Absolutely, he is all of the above. The first Doctor (played by William Hartnell) was crotchety and bad tempered. The second Doctor (Patrick Troughton) was like a cosmic hobo, very much like Charlie Chaplin. Doctor number 3 (Jon Pertwee) was an aristocratic gent with a flowing cape. The fourth Doctor (Tom Baker) was the longest running and most popular of the Doctors (178 episodes). His character was a comic in a never ending scarf. Doctor number 5 (Peter Davison) was the youngest Doctor, taking over the role at the age of 30. He was heroic, though fallible, and attired in a cricket outfit. Last (so far), but no least, the sixth Doctor (Colin Baker, no relation to Tom) brings an acid wit to the part.

The Doctor is from the planet of Gallifrey, where an immensely intelligent and highly civilized race lives. The Gallifreyans have a unique endowment - the ability to regenerate their bodies, to prevent premature death. During regeneration, they take on a completely new physical appearance. Gallifreyans may regenerate as many as 12 times in one lifetime.

More important than this ability, is one of the Gallifreyans' many discoveries. They have opened the doors to the time barrier and unlocked the secret of travel through the Fifth Dimension. This allows them to travel anywhere in time and space.

The early Time Lords used their powers to try to help the people of the planet Minyos develop their civilization. Despite their efforts, the Minyans destroyed each other in a nuclear war. The Time Lords realized the potential harm of their discoveries and instituted laws governing time travel, limiting themselves to the role of observers.

The Doctor became bored with the laws of non-intervention and left Gallifrey. An idealist, he disagreed with the policies of his former masters, believing they should use their powers to right the injustices of the universe. With his grand-daughter and a stolen TARDIS, he began to explore the universe himself. Together with various companions that he has met on his travels, the Doctor fights evil and oppression wherever he finds it.

The Doctor's companions have been as different as the Doctor himself. Whether it has been Leela (Louise Jameson), a beautiful savage girl; K-9, a computerized, robotic dog; or Tegan (Janet Fielding), an Australian airline hostess, they have always been a measure of the show's charm.

Another part of Doctor Who are the monsters and villians he encounters on his travels. There is Davros and his Daleks, part organic and part robotic creatures, which will exterminate all who stand in the way of their attempt to rule the universe. Along with the Daleks are the Cybermen, robotic men that also seek full and total control of the universe. By far, the Doctor's most dangerous adversary is The Master, an evil renegade Time Lord with a lust for power. A deadly hypnotist, his trademark is murder. His favorite weapon is a gun which compresses his victims' atoms, leaving doll-sized corpses.

The popularity of Doctor Who is amazing. There are almost 100 novels published in the United States by Lyle Stuart, Incorporated. The two largest Whovian fan clubs are the 20,000 member "Doctor Who Fan Club of America" (DWFCA) and the 3,000 member "North American Doctor Who Appreciation Society" (NADWAS). During the weekend of February 23 and 24, 1985, some 8,000 Whovians from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware descended upon Valley Forge, Pennsylvania for the largest convention ever held in the Philadelphia area.

Doctor Who can be seen weeknights on Channel 39 in the Lehigh Valley area. Other public television stations that show Doctor Who are: Channel 44 in the Wilkes Barre area, Channel 52 in Trenton, and Channel 12 in the greater Philadelphia area.

TRIVIA CHALLENGE by Anthony Martucci

1. Name the two Tom Baker episodes where the Time Lords pulled the Doctor out of the space-time vortex to do their bidding? What planets was the Dr. pulled to?
2. In what episode did the cape of Dr. 3 (Jon Pertwee) make its entrance?
3. What happened to Group Marshall Stike in the "Two Doctors"?

(answers on page 6.)

We thank CAPS Comic Cavalcade and Dreamscape for helping make it possible to offer doorprises at our first and second meeting.
Please drop by these stores and tell them Tardis Tours sent you.

Have you seen the June 1986 issue of Games Magazine? The Doctor is one of 27 famous "doctors" represented on the cover. He does have a tendency to pop up where you least expect him!!!

Isn't there a saying or expression you've always wanted to share with the world? Now you can! We're about to make up a batch of new and clever buttons to sell at our meetings so search your memory banks and share them with us.

AEROSPORTS LTD.
in conjunction with
Spirit of Light Enterprises
present

Memorial Day Weekend
May 23, 24, 25, 26, 1986

Hyatt Regency Hotel
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Personalities to be appearing:

Lalla Ward	Romana II
Sarah Sutton	Nyssa
Mark Strickson	Turlough
Louise Jameson	Leela
Bonnie Langford	Melanie!!!
Colin Baker	Doctor VI

John Nathan-Turner

Ticket prices before May 1:
1 day $20.00
2 days $27.50
3 days $32.50

UNEARTHLY CHILDREN
PO Box 642, Richboro, PA 18954 1-357-7245

TARDIS TOURS
PO Box 1064, Bethlehem, PA 18016 868-8342

The excitement is growing as we look forward to the Memorial Day Week End, May 23, 24, 25 and 26, 1986 Whovent 86 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The deadline for advance tickets is now May 9. But this is the absolute limit, after May 9 add $5.00 to the Con ticket price.

Tardis Tours and The Unearthly Children are the exclusive agents for tickets in eastern Pennsylvania - so you can save even more as we do not charge a service fee. You MUST have a postal money order or cashiers check in our hands by May 8. Don't miss out on this fantastic event!

CONFLASH!

by LUCILLE MARTUCCI

Upcoming Events: Creation Convention in New York, May 10 and 11, Roosevelt Hotel, Madison Avenue at 45th Street. Guests: Nicholas Courtney and Mark Lenard.
TARDIS Con 86: The North American Time Festival for 1986. August 1, 2 and 3, Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Mark Strickson plus more guests to be announced. For info send a SASE to: TARDIS Con, PO Box 39305, St. Louis, MO 63139.
TARDIS 23: November 28, 29, 30, 1986 in Chicago, Illinois. This is Spirit Of Light -- THE big one! More information when available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LUCILLE MARTUCCI

FROM OTHER CLUBS...

Prydonians of Prynceton*
THE GREAT GALLIFREYAN GALA II
Saturday, May 3, 1986 10 to 5 p.m.
American Legion Post 31, Route 130 and Klockner Road, between Yardsville, and Robinsville New Jersey.
Flea market, videos, cricket, costume contest, trivia, food, merchandise, special guest.
For info. call - Tom Beck 1-609-921-8148

Unearthly Children*
Next Meeting...May 10, 1986
For info. call - Will Shrader 1-343-5715

Northeast Matrix*
DR. WHO FAN CLUB(S) BIRTHDAY PARTY
Second Annual Celebration...a joint effort between the clubs of the Northeast Matrix.
Sunday, July 27, 1986 11 to 6 p.m.
Wrightstown Grange Fairgrounds, off Route 413, north of Newtown, Pa.
Lunch, videos, skits, songs, fund-raising pie-throwing event, more fun!

North East Matrix fan clubs -- all have regular meetings, newsletters, etc. All have annual dues of $6.00. We heartily recommend checking them out:

The Prydonians of Prynceton
Gallifrey East
359 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

The Jersey Jagaroth
51 Mount Pleasant Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Gallifreyan Embassy of Long Island
232 Hoke Avenue
Oceanside, New York 11572

The Unearthly Children
P.O. Box 642
Richboro, Pennsylvania 18954

Two Hearts, Ltd. *
P.O. Box 3092
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011
*Congrats to John Bollinger who has finally realized a long standing dream -- a fan club for Central Pennsylvania. You did a fabulous job! Your first meeting was a smashing success with 48 registered members.

We recommend attending meetings of other fan clubs, as well as our own, to share and compare notes with other knowledgeable and intelligent admirers of The Doctor.

Ever think of sharing a ride to meetings or conventions? If you need a ride or are willing to take a rider along, let us know, and we'll try to work it out. For the May 10th meeting in Highbridge Robert Frable needs a ride from Easton. Please call him after 4:00 p.m. - 258-0548.

Our thanks to John Bollinger for supplying Tardis Tours with return address labels for our correspondence. Nice job!

DR. WHO TOUR

Hang on to your hats! The British Broadcasting Corp in conjunction with Monarch International and Lionheart Television is presenting a magnificent "Doctor Who" experience exhibition to tour throughout the United States over the next two years and we are delighted to announce Channel 39 will be hosting this event on June 21 and 22, 1986 at the Westgate Mall.

This is B.B.C.'s "Thank you" to the P.B.S. stations who take the show and also to thank the ever-growing legion of "Doctor Who" fans.

This is a unique attraction -- after entering the "Tardis" area, visitors will walk through this incredible "experience theater on wheels" to come face to face with the most famous characters from the 23 year history of this television phenomenon.

These animated figures -- all original pieces from the programs -- are set behing two-way reinforced mirrors highlighted by spot and special effect lighting tripped by an effects sound track creating the illusion of space.

If you don't have chills by now, read on. "Bessie" the vintage Ford Popular convertible used by the third Doctor, Jon Pertwee, accompanies the exhibiton.

The P.B.S. stations hosting this exhibit will benefit from the proceeds. Ticket prices will be $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for children under 14. Hours should be 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Be there!

CHANNEL 39 UPDATE

Channel 39 sent us a very nice letter of thanks to all who helped with the March pledge night for Doctor Who. Let's face facts - we wouldn't have The Doctor without Channel 39 and they won't have The Doctor without you - so thank you for past pledges and spread the word for future pledges. Look for the next pledge break in August, the week before Musikfest. See you then!

Don't forget Channel 39s On Air Auction. There will be five 3 day tickets with autographed posters commemerating this Whovent 86 specially designed by Lalla Ward. Of course there will be many many fantastic bargains -- so phone, bid and buy. May 4 through 10.

ATTENTION... TOUR GUIDES!

If you signed up as a volunteer at our last meeting look for a phone call or post card shortly for a very important meeting. If you haven't told us you have a little bit of time and would be able to give us some of it please let us know.

The Joy Of Fanning

by Thomas Beck

co-founder of the Prydonians of Prynceton

FOREWARD..... by Ron Heckman, Editor

Following is an article by Tom Beck, Editor of the Prydonian Renegade and Dr. Who Fan Extrordinaire. We in Tardis Tours are very fortunate that, as members of the Northeast Matrix, we can publish Tom's work. I found it to be one of the most entertaining and informative articles regarding Dr. Who that I have ever read. I am sure all who read this will be both entertained and enlightened.

On behalf of Tardis Tours, I extend a very special thanks to Tom, and continued success for the Prydonians of Prynceton!

I'm assuming that most members of Tardis Tours are new to **Doctor Who** and, therefore, probably new to "organized" fandom in general. Any old Star Trekkers or mainstream SF fans amongst you will be familiar with what goes on at a convention or club meeting, but the rest of you...ah, the rest of you who **don't** know what you're getting into...boy, I envy all of you! That's right, I envy you for the excitement of **learning all about it** that you're all about to experience.

I became a Doctor Who fan in late 1983, and for months was sure I was the only fan in New Jersey. Nobody else I knew watched the show. My housemates thought I was silly (I am, but that's **my** business). Finally I talked my best friend into watching it and he, too, got hooked, mainly because of Athony Ainley's performance in "The Five Doctors." The two of us, and his wife, became the only Whovians I knew. But we were still the greenest of neo-fen ("fen" is the fannish plural of "fan.")

As for knowing anything about the programme, well...I remember hearing vague noodlings once on a Channel 12 fundraiser about there being five Doctors over 20 years, but I don't suppose I believed them. I knew about Tom Baker, of course, and the first Doctor I saw was Jon Pertwee, and within a week of that, I caught a glimpse of Peter Davison. Checking the year just after the BBC copyright at the end of each episode showed me the Pertwee epsiodes had been made a decade earlier. So I suppose I was **aware** of the show's history, but not really.

Then, one day, at B. Dalton's I found Peter Haining's monumental **Doctor Who: A Celebration**, still the best single book on the whole Doctor Who phenomenon and experience. Very early in his book, he writes the best line I've ever read to explain the show's appeal: **"Those of us who tuned in [to the first broadcast], young people mostly, were whisked off on a journey through time that, incredibly, has never ended."** It was that book that taught me about the Time Lords, about Gallifrey, that there really were two Masters, that there were dozens of Companions I'd never heard of, how come the Doctor was stuck on Earth during the Pertwee years- - -all sorts of stuff I'd never dreamed of. It's like exploring through the jungle, and suddenly you come to the clearing overlooking this tremendous valley filled with a magnificent civilization you scarcely had an inkling of. Took my breath away.

The book also mentioned fan clubs. Specifically, the Doctor Who Fan Club of America. I wrote to the listed address, sent in my $5, and months later received my first issue of the **Whovian Times**. One of its articles called upon members to found **local** chapters. My friends and I decided to try. It took several months, but in April 1984, the three of us, and four or five other local Whovians I'd stumbled across, held the first meeting of The Prydonians of Prynceton. We've had goot times and bad times since then, but we've enjoyed incredible success. Today we have almost 500 members in 20 states and Canadian provinces.

What is fandom? It is a term used to describe people who so enjoy the worlds created by talented science fiction writers, TV producers, or filmmakers, that they try to live in those worlds, at least occasionally. It is not a refuge from the real world; for those of us who got lost in the stars at some point in our lives and never wanted to be found, it **is** the real world, far more attractive than the rat-races in the "mundane" outside. This doesn't mean that we're all fantasts with no sense of the difference between the printed page or the cinema screen and the "real" world. We know there's a difference - - -and we prefer the fannish world. Any Whovian (a real fan as opposed to a casual viewer) is probably naturally attracted to the Doctor's own boyish irresponsibility and lack of self-seriousness, both qualities condemmed in the "real" world and celebrated in fan clubs. There's another reason that fandom is so attractive that I'll get to later.

Doctor Who fandom is a recent phenomenon in America. With the show appearing haphazardly on public television and with few Americans growing up with it as Britons have, it had no natural audience in the States. This makes its tremendous success over here truly astounding. It also means that new fans may not have anyone else to talk to about their new addiction. They may have no source for information on the show and no way of figuring out exactly what is going on on the screen, other than that they like it. Conventions offer some chance of meeting other fans, of buying Doctor Who books, etc., but not everyone can get to a convention.

Anyone can join a fan club. Indeed, the clubs are almost insane with the desire to sign up new members. Even if you can't attend the meetings, we tell prosective Prydonians, join up anyhow. You'll get our newsletter and find out about the show light years sooner than you would any other way. You'll be part of fandom, rather than just another isolated weirdo.

(con't on pg 6)

FANNING (con't from pg 5)

There are many joys to being a member of a fan club. The first and most dramatically obvious one is the simple realization that you aren't the **only** Doctor Who fan in the world. We have heard from so many Prydonians thanking us for introducing them to other fans. Often, they're the only ones in their school or even town. Being part of a club helps us feel less unusual (although we surely **are** unusual!).

There are many clubs in the northeast now, up from zero just two years ago. Thanks to the hard work of their leaderships, the clubs do not compete against each other (except in cricket, the Doctor's favourite human sport), and many area Whovians belong to several clubs (I'm a member of at least **twelve**, at last count), as each club offers something unique and valuable that the others don't.

Most clubs publish newsletters and have regular meetings, where members can enjoy the programme in the company of other fen. Meetings are also a place to pick up the latest news, buy a club T-shirt, find out about upcoming conventions and public TV fundraisers, sing filk songs (Doctor Who lyrics set to well-known tunes), dress up, hold trivia contests, perform skits....you name it. At the most recent Prydonians Assembly, a well-known Doctor Who fanzine editor spoke on how one publishes a fanzine, which is a topic of great interest amongst our membership at the moment. Meetings provide members an excellent opportunity to enjoy the company of others sharing their affliction.

Members of local clubs find out about what's going on with **Doctor Who** and fandom far **far** sooner than non-affiliated fen. Last winter, when the BBC announced the postponement of the new season of **DW**, the local fan clubs had the news out to their members weeks in advance of any other news sources. Unless you were a member, you had little chance of finding out about Whovent '85 last October. Only local clubsters know that they've already chosen the new Companion for the 23rd season.

A lot of people feel that because they belong to the national Doctor Who Fan Club of America, they don't need to join a local club. That's just plain silly, because how can a national club put you in touch with fans in your area? Also, **Whovian Times** is great, but it doesn't come out very often. Who's going to tell you about local conventions, public TV fundraisers, and other special events? Who's going to fill you in on important DW news from Britain **fast**? Above all else, perhaps excepting having fun, local clubs see their principal purpose and obligation as providing **services** to their members.

The initial excitement, the **thrill**, of being a neowhovian is compounded by learning just **how much** Doctor Who there is: 22 years of it, by now. Most of us in America have absolutely no idea of this great history and tradition when we first take up the programme. (There are some who don't **want** to know, fen who only watch the Tom Baker episodes, for instance.) If it's all a bit bewildering but exhilerating to you now, then all I can say is...welcome to the club! Eventually, you'll find it all familiar and some of the excitement may fade, just a bit, and you'll be an expert in DW trivia as I am, and- - - heavens!- - - you'll be an **old** fan instead of a neo. But the shine and warmth of a good club and its staunch members will never dim or cool. Above all else, the true joy of fanning is the wonderful friends you'll make in it.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Genesis of the Daleks, The Brain of Morbius.
   Skaro, Karn.
2. The Sllurians.
3. After being weakened by Acid and the Carmon-Relmer machine (without its Bridge-Nebulizer), he remembered his space ship was on self-destruct. While trying to enter his ship, it blew up, destroying itself and him.

Tardis Tours
P.O. BOX 1064
BETHLEHEM, PA
18016

DATED MATERIAL